

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 7, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

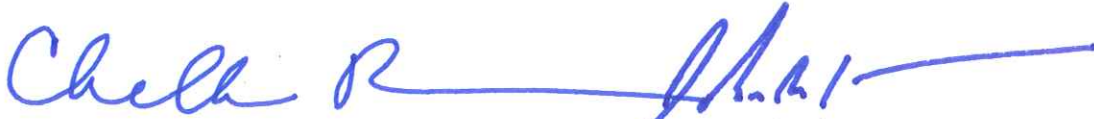
We are writing to express our concerns that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed draft guidance on plant biostimulants (84 FR 11538) will conflict with related ongoing efforts by Congress and other federal agencies to clarify the statutory and regulatory framework for plant biostimulants.

Section 10111 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 directed the Secretary of Agriculture to complete a report on the status and regulatory review of plant biostimulants, a product category that has seen significant growth recently. We are encouraged that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sent this report to Congress on December 20, 2019 as mandated by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. The report outlines six potential options for Congress, USDA, and other agencies to pursue in order to address the appropriate review, approval, availability, and uniform labeling of plant biostimulant products to agricultural producers. It is our understanding that USDA consulted with EPA and other stakeholders while completing this report.

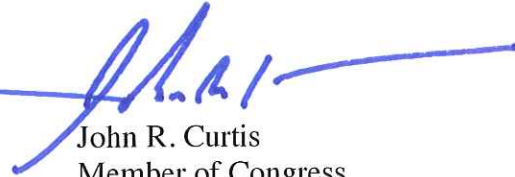
Given this development, we ask that EPA delay finalizing its draft guidance document entitled, "Guidance for Plant Regulator Label Claims, Including Plant Biostimulants," from March 27, 2019 until Congress has had appropriate time to review USDA's report and determine the best path forward. A critical future step will be the development of a formal, legal definition for plant biostimulants, and we believe this definition should be developed through a process led by Congress in consultation with USDA. While we appreciate EPA's effort to provide regulatory clarity to the plant biostimulant industry, we are concerned that moving forward with the draft guidance will disrupt both Congress and USDA's efforts. We hope EPA will recognize the importance of a united effort in developing the definition and will not create confusion by sending a potentially conflicting message through the draft guidance.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

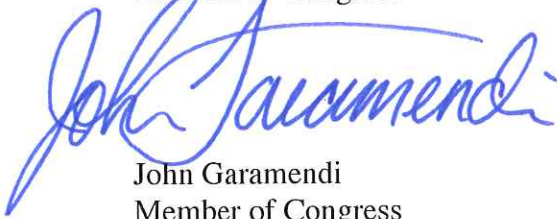
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chellie R. Pingree", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John R. Curtis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

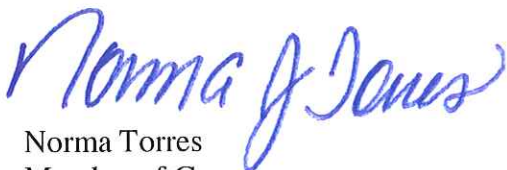
John R. Curtis  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Garamendi", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hagedorn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Norma Torres", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Norma Torres  
Member of Congress

cc: Alexandra Dunn  
Assistant Administrator  
EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention